PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act, commonly known as the Federal Fair Housing Act, which guarantees fair housing for all residents of the United States, was signed into law in April 1968; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is nationally recognized as Fair Housing Month and a time to reflect on and reaffirm our national commitment to the right that fair housing opportunity is available to everyone in the United States without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula recognize this legislation endeavors to ensure all our residents are free to purchase, rent, finance and insure their homes without regard to their sex, marital status, race, creed, religion, color, age, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent annual report published by HUD, housing discrimination complaints reached the highest level ever recorded in 2023, with more than half of those complaints relating to discrimination on the basis of disability status; and

WHEREAS, recent reductions to federal fair housing funding have significantly impacted organizations responsible for enforcing the Fair Housing Act, including cuts that eliminated roughly 80 % of the operating budget for the Montana Fair Housing organization, severely limiting resources available for education, investigation and enforcement of fair housing protections statewide and weakening the systems that protect residents from housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula call for these funds to be reinstated to protect civil rights, ensure housing stability, and uphold the principles of equity and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula welcome this opportunity to celebrate the 58th anniversary of the adoption of the Fair Housing Act and to rededicate our commitment to the principle of fair housing for all by strengthening efforts that address discrimination in our communities, supporting programs that will educate the public concerning their rights to equal housing opportunity and ensuring every person their right to live free of the fear of housing discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Missoula County Commissioners in the state of Montana and the Mayor of the City of Missoula, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in Missoula, Montana. We encourage all residents to recognize this celebration for the purpose of improving the quality of life for all.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

CITY OF MISSOULA

Andrea Davis, Mayor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
MISSOULA COUNTY

Josh Slotnick, Chair

David Strohmaier, Commissioner

Juanita Vero, Commissioner